

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8718

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12260

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV UK RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: THE BISHOP IN LONDON

1. BISHOP MUZOREWA'S VISIT TO LONDON HAS SO FAR REPEATED HIS EARLIER EFFORTS IN THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS CALLED ON DAVID OWEN AND CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERS AND HAS FIGURED IN THE PRESS, TELEVISION AND RADIO. BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY HE HAS PUSHED THE THEME THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IS WORKING, THAT THE RHODESIA GOVERNMENT STANDS FOR PEACEFUL DEMOCRACY IN THE FACE OF COMMUNIST VIOLENCE, AND THAT WESTERN GOVERNMENTS SHOULD SUPPORT THE RHODESIA AGREEMENT BY LIFTING SANCTIONS.

2. WHILE MUZOREWA'S CAMPAIGN IS DESIGNED TO DRAW ON PUBLIC SYMPATHY IN THE DAYS BEFORE THE RHODESIA DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT (AUGUST 2), HIS REMARKS HAVE BEEN OVERCONFIDENTIAL

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SHADOWED BY NEWS OF RHODESIA'S LATEST RAID INTO MOZAMBIQUE. REPEATEDLY QUESTIONED AT A HYATT PARK PRESS CONFERENCE WHETHER HE HAD APPROVED THE INCURSION IN ADVANCE, THE BISHOP REPLIED, "THAT IS NOT OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE", LEAVING THE IMPRESSION OF A CONFUSED AND FUMBLING POLITICIAN.

3. JOHNNY GRAHAM DESCRIBED MUZOREWA'S MEETING WITH OWEN JULY 31 AS "ENTIRELY PREDICTABLE" WITH THE BISHOP REITERATING MUCH OF WHAT HE HAD TOLD SECRETARY VANCE LAST WEEK. HE CONFIDENTLY INFORMED OWEN THAT THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT AND CEASE-FIRE PROGRAM ARE SUCCEEDING AND THAT AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE. THE BISHOP REVEALED NO SENSE OF UNEASE, AND WHEN OWEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD BEEN CONSULTED ABOUT THE MOZAMBIQUE RAID, MUZOREWA DISMISSED THE QUESTION AS IRRELEVANT. GRAHAM SUBSEQUENTLY COMMENTED THAT THE BISHOP SHOWED NO POLITICAL SENSE IN HIS TALK WITH OWEN, AND THAT ONLY SMITH WOULD BE ABLE TO PULL HIM INTO AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE.

4. RICHARD LUCE AND DOUGLAS HURD, BOTH SHADOW DEPUTY SPOKESMEN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH MUZOREWA. MARGARET THATCHER AND JOHN DAVIES HAD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH THE BISHOP, WHICH LUCE DESCRIBED AS "POLITE BUT BLUNT." THE TORIES WERE PUZZLED BY MUZOREWA'S BLITHE EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE AS THEY URGED THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO GET ON WITH IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT. MUZOREWA SAID HE WOULD TAKE THE "ADVICE OF MY FRIENDS", BUT CLAIMED THE SALISBURY GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE ACHIEVED MORE IF IT HAD RECEIVED ENCOURAGEMENT FROM WESTERN GOVERNMENTS.
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BREWSTER

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